POLICE LIFE

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# Police Community Roadshow 2016

## The Transformation Journey

## Climbing to a Better Fitness

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## Note from the Team

The Singapore Police Force (SPF) organised a series of Police Community Roadshow in end 2016 to raise awareness on police work with the emphasis on three areas: Real Work that Matters, Equipped to Succeed, and Community Leaders. In this issue of *Police Life*, find out more about the roadshows and how the Police deepen the trust and forge stronger community ties.

Read about Ang Mo Kio Division's quest to combat family violence, and how community partnership has played an important role in this mission.

Join residents from Woodlands as the community comes together to be SGSecure trained for the fight against crime.

We wish you a pleasant read!

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# The Transformation Journey

By: Denise Luo (Photographer: Md Shahrunnizam)

***The phone rings, he takes the call, giving me a twinkling to compose my thoughts. As I sat across, waiting patiently for the moment to break the ice, I noticed signs of weariness that have been obscured by his fervour for Police work. Currently serving his stint as Director of the Manpower Department, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (SAC), Teo Chun Ching traces his life-long affinity with the Police blue to his college days as Cadet Inspector of the National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC) which eventually inspired him to take up the Singapore Police Force (SPF) Scholarship.***

## His Home Team Journey Thus Far

Of his 24 years serving the Force, SAC Teo fondly recounts his operational postings to be some of the highlights in his career. Starting with his posting in Tanglin Division as the Head of Operations during the September 11 attacks in 2001, he recalls the intricacies of executing action plans, and handling sensitive cases pertaining to persons of interest. In addition, he also oversaw the rolling-out of the Neighbourhood Police Centres in Tanglin.

SAC Teo also describes his assignments as Commander of the Airport Police Division and Commander of the Bedok Division to be ***"similarly notable experiences". "As a Commander, you are responsible for the entire division, in terms of the security outcomes, and the well-being of your officers. This gives a sense of satisfaction as you have very specific results that you are trying to achieve, and you get to work with a large group of very motivated officers as well,"*** SAC Teo enthused.

## Road to Transformation

Among the key changes made over the years to the SPF, the Police Transformation Programme (PTP) is considerably one of the most significant in recent history. SAC Teo was tasked to lead the project together with the Director of Public Affairs Department, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Wilson Lim.

The need to improve both the officers' morale and the public's perception of the SPF are the key drivers behind the PTP. While it may be challenging to implement the programme, SAC Teo is determined to convince his officers and members of the public on the benefits of the PTP. The programme is guided by five pillars: Real Work that Matters; Purpose Driven; Community Leader; Equipped to Succeed; and Valuing Contribution. These pillars form the basis of SPF's current policing and communication outreach in light of the changing demographics and operating environment in Singapore.

As part of the programme, officers are given additional opportunities to improve and develop their skills, training them to be more efficient, resourceful and adaptable in their undertakings. On the other hand, members of the public will benefit from the implementation of the Community Policing System (COPS) as they can now enjoy stronger Police presence and wide CCTV coverage of their neighbourhoods. ***"Not only does PTP change the look and feel of the Police Force but it also makes the Force look more professional than before to the public,"*** commented SAC Teo.

The PTP has been well-received by both the officers and the public at large. SAC Teo attributes this to the dedicated internal and external publicity efforts and the successful SPF recruitment publicity campaigns, which have taken on PTP's new visual identity and key messages. The success was further augmented by the positive responses at the recently concluded Police Community Roadshows which was held over five weekends between November to December 2016 in various heartland locations.

## Adapting to Modern Challenges

With the stabilisation of the PTP, SAC Teo shared that the Force is looking forward to the next phase of the transformation which would align the SPF to the Home Team Transformation 2025. This shift would unify all Home Team agencies in the modern digital age by leveraging technological innovations to enhance daily operations. ***"It is an exciting period because how our officers carry out investigations, patrols, and respond to incidents will change significantly through the new technological capabilities, which will enhance the effectiveness of officers."***

Besides enhancing daily operations, SAC Teo believes that the utilisation of modern technology to resolve issues of additional workload will address the present manpower crunch challenge. ***"There are many ways to overcome this problem. Technology holds a lot of opportunities and I think we should continue researching and exploring new technologies so that officers can be more efficient."***

From assisting career transitions for retiring officers to aiding the Home Team Transformation 2025, SAC Teo further unravels the process of strategic planning in his department.

***"We need to ensure that our workforce can adapt to changes. For retiring officers, we have already set up a career transition office and we will roll out a series of initiatives to support retiring officers in finding desirable meaningful second careers after they leave the SPF. As for our current officers, we want to equip them with the necessary skills that will help them in the transformation journey, if they need new skills, we must ensure that they receive the necessary trainings,"*** SAC Teo explained.

## Satisfaction from Work

Shedding more light on his personal life, SAC Teo shared that maintaining a work-life balance is essential to him. He reiterates that it is deliberate prioritisation and adjustment of schedules to accommodate both work and family that makes the difference.

***"Scheduling and planning ahead is important, even on a daily basis. When your family needs you, you are there for them, and when your work requires you, you are there to deliver what the organisation expects of you,"*** he emphasised.

As the interview came to a close, SAC Teo advised fellow officers that ***"it is important to understand why we join the Police Force in the first place, to actively look for satisfaction in whatever job you are doing and to realise how your work contributes to Singapore being one of the safest places in the world."***

# Police Community Roadshow 2016

*By: Jonas Tan*

**With a myriad of fun-filled activities and a wealth of knowledge and information to be shared with the community, the Police Community Roadshow 2016 proved to be a resounding success, attracting over 120,000 visitors over the span of five consecutive weekends from 19 November 2016 to 18 December 2016. Held at five different heartland locations, the Police Community Roadshow aims to raise public awareness on policing work, crime prevention and SGSecure messages while simultaneously strengthening ties between the community and the Singapore Police Force (SPF).**

## Fostering Trust

***"The Singapore Police Force has been investing in our officers' capabilities and strengthening partnerships with the community. Through this series of roadshows, we hope members of the public would have a better understanding of police work, and deepen our trust and working relationship."***

— Assistant Commissioner of Police Gerald Lim, Chairman of the organising Committee for Police Community Roadshow

Being one of SPF's largest community outreach efforts, this event provided members of the public an opportunity to get up close and personal with Police officers and find out more about the work they do. Such interactions between the community and the Police officers also help in fostering trust through mutual understanding of each other's concerns and interests. Additionally, it also offers a platform for unity, to affirm each other's commitment to safeguarding our every day.

The exhibition booths set up at Police Community Roadshow 2016 were centered on three main themes: Real Work that Matters, Equipped to Succeed and Community Leaders; allowing for many exciting activities and live demonstrations. Besides entertainment from the fierce 'live' demonstration of dominance by the K-9 dog unit, members of the public also got a chance to meet several Police celebrities and take "selfies" with them. Catch all these exciting highlights on the photo spread featured on pages 6 and 7.

## A Big Thank You

***"The collective efforts of all officers involved in organising the roadshows contributed to the resounding success in bringing the roadshows to the community. Everyone played their part in showcasing our initiatives and capabilities to make the members of the public understand our work better."***

— Superintendent of Police Daniel Hui, Head Operations of Clementi Division

The Police Community Roadshow not only achieved it desired outcomes, but it was also a great opportunity for almost 1,400 officers from various units to get together to demonstrate SPF's strong team spirit. The officers worked tirelessly but enthusiastically, from planning to implementation, all with a common goal to make the event as enjoyable and enriching for the community. To that end, SPF would like to express our gratitude to all the roadshow visitors and officers for making this event a success!

# Wall of Thoughts

*By: Md Shahrunnizam (Photographer: Md Shahrunnizam)*

I am confident with our Police officers. They constantly update us with the current happenings at our void decks and through the newspapers. With that, I feel safe and I am proud of them.

Mr Long Poo Cheng, 59
Staff,
Old Chang Kee

Thank you Singapore Police Force (SPF) for keeping my neighbourhood safe and giving me the opportunity to wear the heavy equipment, today I feel like a real Policeman.

Muhammad Alif Syakir Bin Md Syed, 10
Student,
Tampines North Primary School

I've been to many Police roadshows and this is by far the best. All the officers here are approachable and knowledgeable as they are able to answer my queries relating to SPF.

Lee Zixi Keith, 23
Full-time National Servicemen,
Singapore Armed Forces

I think this is the perfect time to showcase our capabilities. With terrorism being the prime bulletin, this roadshow unifies Singaporeans to combat terrorism together.

Kan Jun Yang, 22
Undergrad,
Singapore Management University

Interacting with members of the public and telling them more about the duties of the National Police Cadet Corps. I spoke to the Police officers who encouraged and motivated me. This roadshow reinforced my childhood passion of becoming a Police officer someday.

Kwa Shu Sheng, 14
Student,
Pei Hwa Secondary School

# Highlights of the Police Community Roadshow 2016

By: Md Shahrunnizam

**The Singapore Police Force (SPF) held the Police Community Roadshow in the heartlands over five consecutive weekends between 19 November to 18 December 2016. The roadshows which attracted over 120,000 visitors were abuzz with performances and exhibition booths showcasing the SPF gears, gadgets, vehicles and firearms to educate members of the public about policing work.**

**Here are some of the highlights if you have missed the roadshow!**

### *Ground Response Force (GRF) Booth*

*A young roadshow visitor looking good in our Ballistic Helmet and Load Bearing Vest.*

### *Police Defence Tactics Demonstrations*

*Our GRF officers stunned the crowd as they shared real life scenarios faced on the ground and demonstrated techniques used to subdue perpetrators using hand-to-hand combat and the Taser.*

### *Fangs that Fend off Perpetrators*

*Officers from the K-9 unit of the Special Operations Command, put up a fearsome display with their canine companions.*

*Trained to track down illegal substances such as drugs and persons at large, these specially trained dogs would stop at nothing once they have set their sights on the target.*

### *A Rocking Affair*

*The Singapore Police Force Rock Band wowed the audience with their rendition of popular hits. One of the songs which enthralled the crowd was the hit song "It's My Life" from the famous American band, Bon Jovi.*

## Building Your Own Badge

Members of the public had a splendid time designing and moulding their own badges.

## With Steady Hands, We Lift Fingerprints!

Officers from the Criminal Investigation Department revealed the tricks of dusting and lifting fingerprints from various object.

## Sirens on the Roads

Vroom... Vroom... Here comes our future Champion of Road Safety!

## A Firm Grip and ... Fire!

Shaping our future officers towards safeguarding our every day.

# Protecting the Vulnerable Within Our Community

*By: Jonas Tan (Photographer: Ridhwan bin Ismail)*

**On 16 and 17 November 2016, about 800 foreign and local experts attended the National Family Violence Networking System (NFVNS) Conference 2016, and celebrated the 20th anniversary of NFVNS in tackling and managing family violence cases. As one of the key agencies dealing with family violence, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) played an integral part in the conference through its participation in the launch of the 'Break the Silence' initiative. The three-year long campaign serves to complement the ongoing initiatives that focus on victims and abusers, by targeting the other actors - bystanders who witness family violence.**

At this year's conference, Ang Mo Kio Division was one of the five individuals and organisations presented with the NFVNS 20th Anniversary Award by Minister for Social and Family Development Mr Tan Chuan Jin, for their significant contributions to the management of family violence. Ever since the start of the Pilot Networking System in 1995 which involved two Family Service Centres, Ang Mo Kio Division has been active in identifying and referring cases of domestic violence to social workers for assistance and working with them to find ways to handle complicated situations. From the collaboration with Centre for Promoting Alternatives to Violence (PAVE) to train and prepare officers in handling family violence cases to providing communication channels between Community Policing Unit officers and victims of family violence, Ang Mo Kio Division has been playing a key role in protecting victims of family violence and managing the cases swiftly.

***"Family violence is not something that can be effectively dealt with by any single party. Our experience has shown that the outcomes are best when the Police, Family Service Centre and other relevant social service agencies are able to come together to join hands in community outreach, training and case management. I hope this award will inspire our officers to continue to serve with passion in protecting the vulnerable within our community."***

*— Assistant Commissioner of Police Lian Ghim Hua on receiving the NFVNS 20th Anniversary Award 2016.*

In his welcome address, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Policy) Lim Kok Thai addressed the role of the SPF and highlighted the importance of coordination in handling cases of family violence. ***"When an act of violence is reported, the SPF is often the first point of contact for victims, and plays the crucial role of responding, investigating and bringing offenders to justice. However, the work does not end there. Strong coordination among the various agencies in the family violence network ensures that the affected family receives follow-up assistance to rehabilitate, and prevent further occurrence of violence,"*** he said.

# The Eagle-Eyed PCG Officer

*By: Maya Vinothini D/O Manimaran and Md Shahrunnizam*
*(Photographer: Thomas Kwang Peng Heng)*

**Preventing intrusions into Singapore's waters and coastlines requires our Police Coast Guard (PCG) officers to be highly vigilant and observant, and these qualities were aptly demonstrated by Special Constable/Sergeant (SC/Sgt) Muhammad Irfan Bin Samsuri.**

*SC/Sgt Muhammad Irfan (Centre) together with colleagues on duty at PCG Command Centre.*

On 3 July 2016 at around 0255hrs, SC/Sgt Irfan was conducting surveillance as the duty operator at the PCG Command Centre when he detected a suspicious subject walking towards Singapore's mainland via the causeway of Woodlands Checkpoint.

After further observations on the movement of the suspicious subject, SC/Sgt Irfan sprang into action and alerted his supervisor, who in turn deployed resource boats to intercept the subject. The subject was detained and interviewed at length, which subsequently revealed that the subject was trying to attempt an illegal entry into Singapore without proper clearance via the checkpoint. The subject was arrested for illegal entry into Singapore and was escorted by PCG officers back to the PCG Command Centre.

Owing to SC/Sgt Irfan's vigilance which led to the successful arrest, our PCG officers have once again demonstrated that they are always working vigorously around the clock to prevent, deter and detect crimes.

# Happenings

### Bedok Division - Change of Command Ceremony

On 1 November 2016, Assistant Commissioner (AC) of Police Tan Tin Wee assumed Command of Bedok Division, taking over previous Commander AC Alvin Moh Tser Loong. During his tenure at Bedok Division, AC Moh had led the division through numerous major security operations such as the 28th Southeast Asian Games and the General Election 2015, as well as achieving the Best Land Division Award for two consecutive years in 2015 and 2016. On behalf of Bedok Division, AC Tan thanked AC Moh for his outstanding leadership of the division, and wished him success in his new appointment as the Director of the Planning and Organisation Department.

### Counter-Terrorism Seminar - Chemical Industry Safety and Security Watch Group

The Singapore Police Force and the Singapore Civil Defence Force jointly organised a counter-terrorism seminar for the Chemical Industry Safety and Security Watch Group on 1 November 2016, a third in a series of Safety and Security Watch Group (SSWG) counter-terrorism seminars. The seminar was graced by Member of Parliament for West Coast GRC, Mr Patrick Tay Teck Guan.

More than 300 participants were updated on the security threat situation and learnt measures to tighten security in their workplaces to strengthen their defences. During the discussions, the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) also shared on the importance of a robust Business Continuity Plan that would facilitate businesses to return to normalcy within a short period of time.

Participants were also encouraged to promote a caring and cohesive community at work to help their staff stay united and recover quickly from the aftermath of an attack.

### 85th INTERPOL General Assembly

On 7 to 10 November 2016, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Policy), Lim Kok Thai led the Singapore Police Force (SPF) delegation to attend the 85th INTERPOL General Assembly.

Held in Bali Indonesia, the Assembly was attended by 830 police chiefs and senior law enforcement officials from 164 member countries. One of the key highlights at this year's Assembly was the election of China's Vice Minister of Public Security, Mr Meng Hongwei as the new President of INTERPOL.

Key issues such as the returning of foreign terrorist fighters from conflict zones and the increasing complexity and diversification of the modus operandi of cyber criminals were discussed during the Assembly. The SPF delegation also took the opportunity to meet up with our strategic counterparts to reaffirm relationships and discuss on mutual collaborations in the fight against transnational crimes.

# My View — I am Ballistic Helmet

*By: Darwisyah Daud (Photographer: Hasif Mohd Ismail)*

**The muggy heat pressed in on me, as beads of perspiration slowly trickled down his neck. With his head securely cocooned in warm sweat – the humidity encases us, and like the buildings that stood still around us, I didn't budge…**

**The second wave of reinforcement – the Emergency Response Team (ERT) – is now at the scene, and they have identified the profile of the suspect.**

**By now, the scene of the terror attack has escalated into a pandemonium of - piercing screams and dull echoes of explosions reverberating around the city walls. An identified unregistered car had crashed into the façade of a building, maiming several civilians. Intense shooting and the shrill of detonations swiftly ensued. Now at their tactical stances, the ERT is poised to put up a swift retaliation to bring an end to the bloodied onslaught.**

**I am made not just to deflect projectiles but also to shield my fellow brothers-in-arms - Police officers from any physical blows to the skull by assailants.**

**Who am I? I am the Ballistic Helmet, ready to protect officers from harm coming their way.**

**Unlike my military counterparts, I am constructed from para-aramid material. A type of heat-resistant and strong synthetic fibre that provides lightweight protection – ranging from an average of 1.35kg to 1.40kg of robust protection from ballistic, fragmentation projectiles and other low energy threats.**

**I am not the archaic Great Helm, donned by the shining armour-clad knights from the Medieval Age, but a modernised helmet engineered for engaging in New Age Warfare. Known to mankind across civilisations and great battles fought throughout the ages, the head is most susceptible to threats – thus it is crucial for officers to always remember to put me on for protection.**

**My companion, the chin strap, is always there to secure me tightly to the officer's head. The four point harness that is anchored to my shell with ballistic resistance bolts keeps the harness intact even when engaging in a fire-fight with gunmen.**

**Perpetrators beware!**

# Brunei's Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah Visits Home Team Tactical Centre

*By: Home Team News/ Desmond Ang (Photographer: Aizil Bin A. Rahim)*

**His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam visited the Home Team Tactical Centre on 30 November 2016. During his visit, he observed a counter-terrorism demonstration conducted by the Singapore Police Force. His Royal Highness, who was received by Minister for Home Affairs Mr K Shanmugam, is in Singapore for a six-day visit as part of the 4th Singapore-Brunei Young Leaders' Programme.**

*Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law Mr K Shanmugam (left) greeting His Royal Highness during his visit to the Home Team Tactical Centre. PHOTO: Aizil Bin A. Rahim*

*His Royal Highness (left) receiving a briefing from a Home Team officer standing next to Minister of State, Ministry of Communication and Information and Ministry of Education Dr Janil Puthucheary (centre). PHOTO: Aizil Bin A. Rahim*

The Home Team Tactical Centre (HTTC) played host to His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam during his visit to Singapore on 30 November 2016.

His Royal Highness, who is next in line to become Sultan of Brunei, was met by Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law Mr K Shanmugam and Minister of State, Ministry of Communication and Information and Ministry of Education Dr Janil Puthucheary at the HTTC on the third day of his six-day visit.

His Royal Highness is in Singapore for the 4th Singapore-Brunei Young Leaders' Programme (YLP) from 28 November to 2 December 2016. First launched in 2013, YLP aims to strengthen and foster closer ties between young leaders from Singapore and Brunei.

During his visit to the HTTC, His Royal Highness, who is also Deputy Inspector General of the Royal Brunei Police, watched a counter-terrorism demonstration conducted by the Singapore Police Force (SPF). He was also briefed on the SPF's counter-terrorism capabilities, the SGSecure national movement and the functions of the HTTC. The HTTC is a training facility jointly developed by the SPF and the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) to allow for more coordinated and integrated exercises among Home Team agencies.

*His Royal Highness (centre) and Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law Mr K Shanmugam (sitting, sixth from left) posing for a group photo at the Home Team Tactical Centre. PHOTO: Aizil Bin A. Rahim*

Phase one of the HTTC, a three-part project spanning 29 hectares of land, was completed in July 2015 and opened by Mr Shanmugam in October 2015. More training facilities will be added over the next few years.

# Nothing Can Stop a Prepared Community

*By: Md Falliq (Photographer: Abdul Khalid)*

**Residents trained to prepare for terror attacks during Woodlands Emergency Preparedness Day.**

With the rising threat of terrorism in the region, it is fundamental for our community to be prepared on how to react in the event of an attack. The Woodlands Emergency Preparedness (EP) Day that was held on 5 November 2016 is one such event that was organised for this purpose. Parliamentary Secretary of Home Affairs Mr Amrin Amin who graced the event said:

***"If we all do our part, we can build a nation of prepared citizens that will react quickly and appropriately should an attack occur,"*** said Mr Amrin.

At the Woodlands EP Day, residents had the opportunity to learn the necessary lifesaving skills such as the Improvised First Aid Skills (IFAS) and CPR from officers from the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF). The event also educated youths on how to apply the Run, Hide and Tell advisory in an actual terror attack through a game of Laser Tag. Participants were also taught on how to download and use the SGSecure app. The SGSecure app is a one-stop portal for members of the public to download useful information on counter-terrorism and to receive alerts in the event of major emergencies in Singapore.

To further help residents familiarise with the Run, Hide and Tell and IFAS advisories, residents were shown a scenario exercise conducted by Home Team officers and Woodlands resident volunteers from the People's Association Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Apart from equipping residents with the appropriate skills, the Community Emergency Preparedness Programme (CEPP), "I AM SAFE", e-learning programme was also launched by Mr Amrin. CEPP aims to provide residents with fire safety and lifesaving skills and knowledge on how to respond in an emergency. The 15 minute e-learning programme is also available on the SCDF's website.

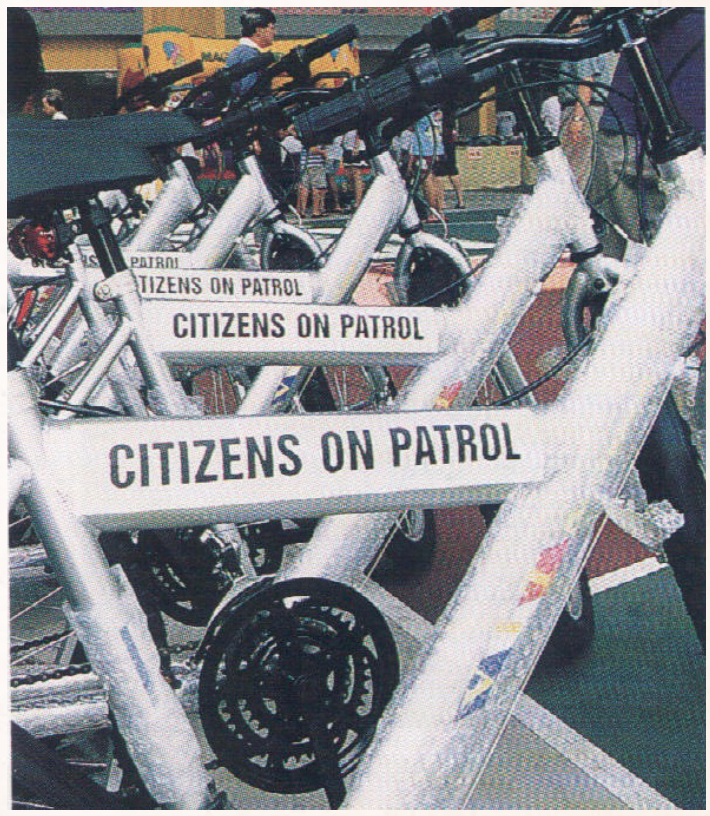
***"Let us pledge our commitment to stay alert to security threats, stay united when terror strikes and stay strong to bounce back quickly in a crisis,"*** said Mr Amrin, highlighting the necessity for Singaporeans to be equipped and ready to help save lives of their loved ones in the event of an emergency.

> ***"If we all do our part, we can build a nation of prepared citizens that will react quickly and appropriately should an attack occur."***
>
> *— Parliamentary Secretary Amrin during his opening address at the Woodlands Emergency Preparedness Day.*

# Launch of COP

By: Reproduction from *Police Life* December 2001

**On 20 October 2001, Fengshan Community Club played host to the launch of the Fengshan community's 'Citizens on Patrol' (COP) CSSP. The event was jointly graced by MP for East Coast GRC (Fengshan) Mr Chng Hee Kok, and Commander 'G' Division Superintendent of Police Peter Lim.**




The 'COP' CSSP was the outcome of the close collaboration between the Grassroots Organizations of Fengshan Constituency, the Marine Parade CDC and the Bedok North NPC. It is a CSSP project that envisaged to empower the residents with the ability to patrol their own community. At the same time, it promotes active citizenry amongst the residents of Fengshan by involving them in enhancing their community's security through their participation in the prevention and detection of crime.

The idea of the CSSP concept materialised when solutions were sought to combat the trend of vehicle-related crimes in the community. By introducing patrol groups headed by community volunteers, it will enable their presence to be projected as an effective pre-empting tool to deter potential offenders, thus playing a crucial role in complementing the Police services that were already available.

While the usual pomp and revelry pervaded throughout the launch, it was the Fengshan spirit that dominated the atmosphere at the Fengshan CC hall. Immediately after the customary flagging-off by MP Chng Hee Kok, the cyclists comprising volunteers from the Fengshan grassroots organization (known as the 'Fengshan Watchers') and Police officers from Bedok North NPC, rode off in their gleaming new bicycles amidst loud cheers and applause from the delighted Fengshan residents.

Kudos Fengshan! They have undoubtedly paved the way to a self-help community who is responsible for their own safety and security. Their good spirit of volunteerism and close rapport with the Police will definitely stand them in good stead in few years to come.

# Our Custodians of Arms and Explosives

*By: Darwisyah Daud (Photographer: Hasif Mohd Ismail)*

**Unbeknownst to many, the Police Licensing and Regulatory Department (PLRD) contributes significantly to the law and order in Singapore, but often doing so quietly in the background. Amongst the wide ranging industries that PLRD oversees, the arms and explosives industry is one that is strictly regulated by PLRD.**

**In this issue, *Police Life* caught up with two PLRD officers to bring you a glimpse of PLRD's work in regulating the arms and explosives industry.**

### Formation of PLRD

Back in 2012, PLRD was formed through a merger between the Security Industry Regulatory Department and the Licensing Division in the Operations Department. PLRD is a small department with only about 60 staff, yet they are responsible for processing more than 145,000 licensing transactions annually, across nine licensing regimes.

Through the merger, the transformed regulatory department is able to provide greater synergy and consistency in the areas of policy formulation, licensing processes and enforcement actions across the licensing regimes administered by the PLRD, providing a one-stop service for all licence applicants.

Delving into the PLRD's scope of work unearths the interesting but crucial responsibilities of Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Soh Ah Kiat and Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Philip Soh. Both officers are part of the Compliance Management & Audit Division (CMAD) in PLRD, which is responsible for the assessment of licence applications and conduct of enforcement inspections to ensure compliance with the regulatory requirements.

### Assessment of Licence Applications

The routine work done by CMAD officers is something that not every Police officer gets an opportunity to experience. In order to assess applications for the usage of explosives, the officers frequently conduct site visit to carry out inspections. SSgt Philip recalled visiting various underground rock blasting worksites for construction of MRT tunnels. This was to ensure that the vibrations from the blasting works do not affect the electrical cabling, water pipelines and other services near the blasting sites. The contractors also had to comply with conditions imposed to ensure that the explosives were transported, stored and used safely and securely. It was heartening for SSgt Philip to know that his efforts had ensured that blasting work had completed without any incident, and many are now benefitting from the new Downtown Line.

ASP Soh also vividly shared his experience in assessing applications for fireworks during major events such as National Day Parade (NDP), Formula 1 Night Races and Year-end Countdowns. One of the most interesting places he had visited was the roof top of UOB Plaza where fireworks were launched during NDP 2011. The roof top fireworks surrounding the Floating Platform had greatly complemented the spectacular fireworks from the main firing points at the Marina Bay waters. ASP Soh's contributions ensured that the organisers adhered to all safety and security measures so that everyone could enjoy the full splendour of the coordinated fireworks.

### Handling Prohibited and Controlled Items

Another PLRD's area of responsibility involves handling of controlled or prohibited items seized by officers at the various checkpoints. ASP Soh has been deeply involved in the formulation of the regulatory policies and the inter-agency coordination to deal with such items. Most of them – pepper sprays, flick knives, knuckle dusters, stun devices, and occasionally, firearms or ammunitions – are brought in by ignorant travellers, sometimes even unknowingly. Once the items are referred to PLRD, SSgt Philip will first inspect and confirm the classification of the items, before preparing them for storage in the PLRD Exhibit Store. For prohibited items such as pepper spray and stun devices, SSgt Philip would obtain a court order before arranging for a disposal. For controlled items such as spear guns and swords, the items may be returned to the respective owners once they have obtained the relevant licences. Both ASP Soh and SSgt Philip always feel a sense of satisfaction knowing that their roles in the regulation of such items ensures that there is no easy access locally to such undesirable objects, which are often used in acts of violence in many countries.

### What it takes

Regulatory policies bring about immense impacts to the regulated community – often a mixed bag of both bona-fide business operators and dubious licensees with doubtful intents – in ways which are usually seen as business-unfriendly. PLRD officers, in dealing with various stakeholders, had to tread carefully while resolving issues with the licensees.

SSgt Philip shared that when dealing with licensees, he often needs to think 'out-of-the-box' in order to arrive at solutions that would address their concerns and needs. ASP Soh added that while PLRD officers generally want to be seen as accommodating to business needs, he would not hesitate to be firm when dealing with potential regulatory breaches. This is important in making sure that our regulatory intent is not diluted while building bridges within the regulated community.

Besides managing the compliance and auditing of Arms and Explosives matters, SSgt Philip believes in the significance of eating healthily and staying in the pink of health.

***"Our health is vital. Having one man down may significantly affect the rest."***

As the interview came to a close, ASP Soh reiterates on the importance of safeguarding our borders. ***"The smuggling of arms and explosives will undermine and destabilise our country..."*** he stressed with conviction.

Indeed, it is not an easy task for PLRD to work in the background, ensuring the effective licensing and regulation of the various sectors, constantly keeping abreast of developments in the sectors, formulating regulatory policies, and setting standards and requirements for the sectors. PLRD will continue to play a vital role in supporting the SPF to uphold its mission of safeguarding Singapore every day.

# Climbing to a Better Fitness

*By: Md Falliq (Photographer: Md Shahrunnizam)*

**As part of our ongoing healthy lifestyle series, *Police Life* shares with you the mantra of avid rock climber Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Yong Wen Wei Edwin and his thoughts on how rock climbing contributes to his career and life.**

For ASP Yong, rock climbing has been an enduring passion for almost 11 years. ASP Yong's love affair with rock climbing started when he first joined rock climbing back in junior college days as a Co-curricular Activity (CCA). A sport where the participants have to overcome obstacles on a steep wall in order to reach the ultimate goal of scaling the heights to the very top, rock climbing has been gaining popularity over the recent years as more people are becoming aware of its benefits.

### Misconceptions and Benefits about Rock Climbing

The biggest misconception about rock climbing is that it is a sport that demands powerful arm strength. In reality, rock climbing is a comprehensive workout that draws upon the leg, core and upper-body muscles in a dynamic test of one's flexibility. ASP Yong, who climbs an average of three hours a session, shares his rock climbing experiences with his colleagues and serves as an inspiration for them to try the intensive sport. Apart from exercising, it is also a way for ASP Yong's colleagues to conquer their fear of heights. Through their shared experiences, ASP Yong was also able to help his colleagues forged stronger bonds with each other, which enhanced their team spirit.

### Valuable Lessons

ASP Yong has benefitted immensely from his rock climbing sessions. Rock climbing not only improves his overall fitness, but also prepares him for his duties. As an Operations officer at the Operations Department, ASP Yong is responsible for developing Standard Operating Procedures for ground response officers, which often requires him to think out of the box as some sensitive cases call for unconventional methods. Prior to this post, ASP Yong has had experience on the ground as a Team Leader at Orchard Neighbourhood Police Centre, Tanglin Division.

***"As a Police officer, we need to be mentally resilient. Rock climbing has definitely taught me to be stronger in my mind and think on the spot because when you are alone up there on the wall, there is nobody around to help you. So you will need to find alternative ways to get past the obstacles,"*** shared ASP Yong.

***"Start small and increase the intensity over time. It's all about discipline as well as commitment."***

*— ASP Yong's message to our officers who are starting out living the healthy lifestyle.*

# One of Us

*By: Md Falliq and Darwisyah Daud (Photographer: Ridhwan bin Ismail)*

**Hi, I am…**

Hi, I am Inspector Leck Shiang Jia from Clementi Division. I have been in the Force for more than 11 years, and I am currently attached to the Queenstown Neighbourhood Police Centre as a Deputy-in-Charge of the Community Policing Unit.

**What are your hobbies?**

My all-time favourite hobby is playing basketball. I started playing basketball during my primary school days, and I have participated in many basketball competitions. I used to represent the Home United Basketball Club in the National Games and the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Public Service Games.

Besides basketball, my other hobby is watching Hong Kong television serials which portray police officers and anything related to crime.

**What motivates you in your job?**

It is the respect and trust that the public has for the Singapore Police Force that motivates me to serve my duties with pride, and the responsibility entrusted to SPF officers in putting an end to crime-related activities to safeguard Singapore every day.

**What is the next set of skill that you wish to obtain to make you a better officer?**

I have enjoyed my experience in my previous posting as a Neighbourhood Police Centre Officer. I would like to deepen my knowledge in investigation field to have a more holistic understanding of policing work.

**Please share with us the most interesting/ amusing incident that you have encountered while at work.**

There was once when I responded to a resident's call for assistance because she discovered a cobra in her house.

Upon arrival, we were directed to the kitchen area where the cobra was last spotted. As we cautiously paced ourselves in the kitchen with our snake catching equipment, we were surprised by the sight of the cobra. It was a baby cobra that could not have been more than 15cm long, and was approximately the size of an earthworm. In fact, it was so tiny that we couldn't even catch it using the snake catching device! Ironically, the caller later requested to keep the cobra to show it to her children after we have caught it in a bottle!

**What is the weirdest misconception you have heard about policing work/ Police officers?**

Police cars are equipped with an advanced technology that enables them to travel faster than an average car.

**I believe in…**

Life is an echo. What you send out comes back. You reap what you sow and you get what you give. What you see in others, exists in you.